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# Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Correspondence 06

Jonathan Katz

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES 1010 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 920, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 347-6352  
(202) 737-0526 FAX

July 15, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell  
648 Dirksen Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

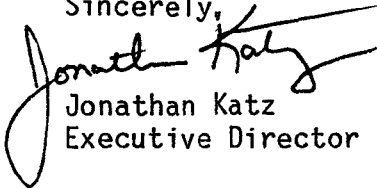
Dear Senator Pell,

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, representing the state and special jurisdictional government arts agencies of the United States, opposes any amendment to change the share of funds allocated to the states as currently provided in the authorizing statute for the National Endowment for the Arts. We reaffirm the policy that has guided NASAA's position over the past years, that the percentage of NEA program funds allocated to basic state grants and to grants for underserved populations should remain unchanged.

The state arts agencies want a strong and effective partner at the federal level. Consistent with that principle, we oppose cuts to the funding for the NEA, and we oppose line item cuts to the NEA's budget as proposed in the Senate bill for FY95 appropriations. Funding from the NEA offers people from all economic backgrounds and all regions of the country access to a broad range of cultural activities. Congress must not undermine the crucial measure of stability in federal funds provided by the NEA for arts activities and programs made available to Americans in every state in the country. Nor, should Congress ignore the catalyzing effect of NEA grants in attracting matching funds from the private sector and other sources, and fostering economic growth at the state and local level.

We applaud your vigilant advocacy on behalf of the important federal role of supporting the arts in the United States, and we support your efforts to maintain the fiscal integrity of the National Endowment for the Arts, continuing its constructive work to distribute federal arts spending broadly across the country.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan Katz  
Executive Director